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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/931,426 09/16/97 WASHBURN

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IM41/0522

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EXAMINER

KASTLER, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 05/22/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/931,426

Applicant(s)

Washburn et al

Examiner

Scott Kastler

Group Art Unit

1742



☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 2-20, 22, and 23 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art of the instant disclosure. The admitted prior art of the instant disclosure, as stated on pages 1 and 2 of the specification for example, teaches a retorting device showing all aspects of the above claim including the ability of operation simultaneously at a temperature within the range of 500 to 1500 degrees F (the admitted prior art is operable at 900 to 1100 degrees F) and at pressures up to atmospheric thereby meeting all requirements of the above claims, since the operational parameters of the system of the admitted prior art of the instant disclosure fall within the range of that permitted by the above claim.

Allowable Subject Matter


3. Claim 21 is allowed, since none of the cited or applied prior art shows or fairly suggests the use of the instantly recited mercury trap means.

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4. Claims 2-20 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. All of Brotherton, Sikander et al, and King are also cited as further examples of prior art mercury retorting devices.
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott Kastler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2506.

sk

May 19, 1998



SCOTT KASTLER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1200